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CIA Probe Set, Top Aide Resigns

Capital Special

NO SNOW—Cloudy today, high from mid-50s to near 60. Occasional rain likely this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow. Low tonight from mid-30s to about 40. High tomorrow in low 50s. Details B-2.

By DAVID C. MARTIN
and MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
Associated Press Writers

James Angleton, named in published reports as overseer of alleged illegal domestic spying by the CIA, today said he has resigned as head of the agency's counterintelligence operations.

Angleton's resignation became known after President Ford ordered Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to get a report from the CIA "within a matter of days" on the allegations of domestic spying. Three congressional committee chairmen also announced yesterday that they would launch separate investigations of the matter when Congress returns next year.

Meantime, a spokesman for Kissinger said yesterday that the secretary "has never seen any survey of American citizens by the CIA and he doesn't know if any such survey exists."

But later, administration sources disclosed that Kissinger had seen one CIA document referring to activities inside the United States by American citizens or organizations. They said, however, that it was philosophical and did not reflect the results of any surveillance.

THESE SOURCES said a CIA survey entitled "Restless Youth" crossed Kissinger's desk at the National Security Council in March 1969. They described it as a general, philosophical discussion of the youth movement abroad with references to the attitudes of American students and youth in the United States during the 1960s.

Angleton, 57, and a veteran of 31 years in the intelligence field, told the Associated Press that he would leave the agency at the end of the month. Angleton said he was resigning not because he felt he was guilty of any wrongdoing but because of what he said were the interestsof the agency.

The New York Times had reported that he headed a domestic spying operation during the Nixon years that kept files on 10,000 American citizens and performed break-ins and surveillance in the United States.

A well informed source said the resignation had been arranged late last week in a meeting between Angleton and CIA director William E. Colby. Colby also was said to feel that Angleton was not involved in any illegal activities. It was understood that Angleton's public identification had been a factor in the resignation.

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Another source, familiar with domestic counterintelligence operations, said that the FBI did not know about any CIA domestic spying and that former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had been adamant that CIA not approach anyone in this country.

THIS SOURCE said, however, that after Hoover broke off formal links to CIA in the late 1960s, agency officials would informally approach FBI counterintelligence officers seeking a go-ahead to contact certain foreign nationals in the United States. These lower FBI officials routinely told their CIA counterparts to go ahead, he said.

The CIA is prohibited by law from conducting intelligence or counterintelligence operations within the United States. That is the FBI's responsibility.

Documents obtained by Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., during his inquiry into possible CIA involvement in Watergate contained "references (to) an apparent CIA file" on columnist Jack Anderson.

A source within the CIA confirmed the existence of such a file and said it had been maintained by the United States Intelligence Board, an interagency panel whose members include the heads of the government's various intelligence services.

THE BOARD, whose responsibilities include developing intelligence estimates and priorities and overseeing security, compiled a dossier on Anderson after publication of classified documents in his syndicated column had blown the cover of CIA agents abroad, the source said.

Two sources said Angleton was questioned by the Watergate Special Prosecutor's office last winter in an attempt to determine if there was any connection between Angleton's unit and the White House plumbers unit. But one source familiar with that effort said the prosecutors could find no evidence of a link and the investigation was not pursued. Angleton also came to the attention of one of the congressional investigations of Watergate.

A source familiar with that investigation said he got the clear impression that Angleton's operation was very secret and was feared by other CIA employes.

KISSINGER has ordered an accounting by U.S. Ambassador Richard Helms who was the CIA director during part of the period in which the alleged unlawful activities were said to have occurred. State Department sources said Kissinger would assemble information from Helms, Colby and others, probably within 48 hours. These sources said Kissinger will not make any recommendations although he may comment on the material he relays to Ford.

Rep. Michael J. Harrington, D-Mass., yesterday questioned whether Kissinger was the proper person to be involved in any investigation of the CIA. Harrington asserted that Kissinger's other title, presidential assistant for national security affairs, made him responsible for directing CIA activities.

Sen. John J. Sparkman, D-Ala., soon to become chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said he was "shocked by the revelations regarding CIA activities in the United States" and announced that he intends to launch an investigation when the new Congress convenes next year.

Separate hearings were promised by Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Senaze Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi, D-Mich., chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence. According to the Times, both men were briefed last year by Colby on the CIA's domestic activities.

SPARKMAN SAID his committee would call for testimony from Helms, Colby, and John McCone, another former director. McCone, who left the agency in 1965, has denied that any domestic surveillance activities were conducted during his tenure as director and suggested that the alleged operations may have been ordered by President Nixon. The Times reported some CIA domestic spying operations dated back to the 1950s.

A spokesman for Kissinger said Monday that "the administration will cooperate to the fullest with any appropriate investigation," including bringing Helms home from his diplomatic post in Iran to answer to "a duly constituted congressional committee." However, State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said Kissinger had no intention of agreeing to a demand from Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., that Helms resign.

House Foreign Affairs Chairman Thomas E. Morgan, D-Pa., suggested that an independent commission be formed to investigate the allegations. "CIA has no business getting involved in domestic security affairs, or investigating anybody in this country," he said.